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DATE May 30, 1986 7:00 A.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT President Wants to Strengthen CIA

JOHN PALMER: In Washington, President Reagan has vowed to continue his campaign to strengthen and revitalize the CIA, despite that criticism of how that agency conducts its business.

White House correspondent Andrea Mitchell reports.

ANDREA MITCHELL: The President honored former spies, World War II veterans of the OSS.

Ignoring the rash of spy cases, he took credit for rebuilding America's intelligence capabilities.

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN: Indeed, the revitalization of an intelligence community is among the things we celebrate here tonight. And yes, it's true this Administration has given unstinting support to that effort. And let me assure you, that will continue.

MITCHELL: He had lavish praise for his own top spy, William Casey, who supports controversial proposals to establish an FBI plumbers unit to root out government leakers, increase the use of lie detector tests for government officials, prosecute news organizations who report government secrets. Casey has also told reporters covering the Pelton spy trial not to report or speculate on details not released at the trial. He later backed off somewhat, saying his use of the word "speculation" implied too broad a ban.

MAN: Further disclosures of sensitive intelligence information would be contrary to the national security interests of the United States.

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MITCHELL: The Administration is sharply divided over some of Casey's ideas, such as lie detector tests. Secretaries Baker and Shultz oppose Casey. Secretary Weinberger and National Security Adviser Poindexter support him. And Chief of Staff Don Regan is known to be worried that some of Casey's solutions might be worse than the original problem.

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